

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DOT INTEREST IN FOREIGN GOVERNMENT R AND D IN ENERGY
FIELD.

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1. EMBASSY INQUIRIES HAVE REVEALED THAT THE FRG IS ENGAGED IN NO RPT NO TRANSPORTATION R & D SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARD ENERGY CONSERVATION. THE FRG TRANSPORT MINISTRY, HOWEVER, PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENERGY FIELD IN ITS TRAFFIC PLANNING DIVISION WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE A MODEST EFFORT, INITIALLY INVOLVING ONE OR TWO PROFESSIONALS.

2. BOTH THE FMT AND THE MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ARE ENGAGED IN PROJECTS (SUCH AS THE HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORT PROGRAM AND EFFORTS TO SHIFT A GREATER VOLUME OF FREIGHT TO THE RAILWAYS) WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO RELIEVE HIGHWAY CONGESTION AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT. IT IS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS WILL YIELD BENEFITS IN THE ENERGY CONSERVATION FIELD. THE EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING A REPORT OUTLINING TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST IN THIS CONTEXT.

3. RE PARA 3E OF REFAIR, THE FRG'S LATEST ENERGY POLICY STATE-
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MENT INCLUDES A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IMPORTERS OF

PROCESSED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (GASOLINE, DIESEL OIL, ETC.) TO INCREASE THEIR STOCKS TO A LEVEL EQUAL TO 70 DAYS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S IMPORTS. ADDITIONALLY, PRODUCERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN STOCKS EQUIVALENT TO 90 DAYS OF THE PRECEDING YEAR'S PRODUCTION. BOTH REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE JAN 1975 AND WOULD BRING THE FRG'S EXISTING LAW ON PETROLEUM STOCKS--ENACTED IN 1965-- IN LINE WITH EC COUNCIL DIRECTIVES. WITH RESPECT TO CRUDE OIL THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO USE ABANDONED SALT MINES TO STOCK UP TO TEN MILLION METRIC TONS. ON THE DEMAND SIDE FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, TOTAL FRG CONSUMPTION IN 1972 WAS 134 MILLION METRIC TONS OF WHICH 34 MILLION WERE USED FOR TRANSPORTATION RELATED PURPOSES. ROAD TRAFFIC ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 24.5 OF THE LATTER FIGURE--18 MILLION TONS OF GASOLINE AND 6.8 MILLION TONS OF DIESEL OIL. AN EMBASSY REPORT ON THE FRG'S CURRENT ENERGY POLICY IS PRESENTLY IN PREPARATION.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL WATCH THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF FRG ENERGY

POLICY AS IT RELATES TO TRANSPORTATION R AND D AND REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

HILLENBRAND

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